

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8762

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON, CU, FROM AMBASSADOR
HODGSON

1. IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT U.S. INTER-UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR JAPANESE LANGUAGE STUDIES IN TOKYO IS ONCE AGAIN
THREATENED WITH COLLAPSE UNLESS ADDITIONAL FINANCING OF
FROM \$180,000 TO \$325,000 CAN BE FOUND FOR 1975-76 ACADEMIC
YEAR.

2. THIS SHORTFALL IN PROJECTED \$570,000 BUDGET IS AFTER
EXPECTED INCOME OF \$74,000 FROM U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION;
\$93,000 FROM JAPAN FOUNDATION; AND \$84,000 FROM SUTDENT
TUITION.

3. ACADEMIC EXPERTS TELL US THIS CENTER HAS BECOME SINGLE
MOST IMPORTANT U.S. NATIONAL RESOURCE FOR TRAINING YOUNG
AMERICANS FOR JAPAN-RELATED CAREERS IN U.S. HIGHER EDUCA-
TION. OVER 90 PERCENT OF 250 AMERICAN CENTER GRADUATES
ARE ACTIVE IN CAREERS RELATED TO JAPAN. THE PROGRAM IN
TOKYO PROVIDES TEN MONTHS ADVANCED, INTENSIVE INSTRUCTION
IN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN JAPANESE FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING STU-
DENTS WHO ALREADY HAVE EQUIVALENT OF TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE
LEVEL JAPANESE. AMERICAN ACADEMIC EXPERTS ON JAPAN RATE
THE QUALITY OF LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION HIGHER THAN ANYTHING
COMPARABLE AND AVAILABLE FOR NON-GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.
THEY SAY IT HAS TAKEN ONE TO TWO YEARS OFF THE TIME RE-
QUIRED FOR AN AMERICAN TO REACH PROFESSIONAL WORKING

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COMPETENCE IN JAPANESE IN ANY CAREER.

4. THE CENTER IS EXPANDING ITS PROGRAMS FOR NON-ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS. IT HAS BEEN PROMISED \$104,000 FROM ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND FOR SECOND YEAR NON-ACADEMIC PROGRAM, AND FOR NEXT YEAR HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED TWO LAWYERS, TWO BUSINESS SCHOOL GRADUATES, AND ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTER FOR CAREER RELATED LANGUAGE WORK. THIS IS A HIGHLY PROMISING DEVELOPMENT WHICH CAN HELP TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN BUSINESS, LAW, AND JOURNALISM ABLE TO DEAL DIRECTLY IN JAPANESE.

5. FORD FOUNDATION AND SONY CORPORATION HAVE EACH CONTRIBUTED HELP OF \$35,000 GIFT OF STKY VIDEO EQUIPMENT WHICH CENTER IS USING IN INSTRUCTION PROCESS. ALTHOUGH CENTER IS EXPERIENCING SUCCESS IN SOLICITING GIFTS FOR PROGRAM ENRICHMENT PURPOSES, THESE CANNOT BE APPLIED TO BASIC OPERATING DEFICIT.

6. JAPAN FOUNDATION SUPPORT AT CURRENT ANNUAL LEVEL IS FIRM, WE UNDERSTAND. SINCE THE CENTER IS AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION, THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO RAISE THEIR CONTRIBUTION UNTIL THE AMERICAN SIDE HAS ESTABLISHED SOME RELATIVELY ASSURED LONG-TERM SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO REPLACE THE RECURRING ANNUAL CRISIS, THREAT OF COLLAPSE, AND ANNUAL BAILOUT THAT HAVE MARKED RECENT YEARS. WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT IF U.S. WOULD PUT OUR SIDE OF THE FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER, THE JAPANESE THROUGH JAPAN FOUNDATION, FOREIGN OR EDUCATION MINISTRIES MIGHT BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO A LONG-TERM COST SHARING ARRANGEMENT, PROVIDING FOR GREATLY INCREASED JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION, PERHAPS UP TO 50 PERCENT OF BASIC ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS.

7. I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE NOW WRESTLING WITH THE PROBLEM OF LONG TERM FEDERAL AID TO HARD LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDY PROGRAMS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT IN ANY EFFORTS TO PUT TOKYO CENTER ON A SOUND, LONG-TERM FINANCIAL BASE. IT IS MUCH IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST TO KEEP THIS CENTER GOING. IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO LET A PROMISING RESOURCE LIKE THIS COLLAPSE, WHEN IT IS CAPABLE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOING SO MUCH OVER TIME TO STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL COMPETENCE TO DEAL WITH JAPAN.
HODGSON

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